

SUMMARY OF GROUP EXERCISE - FAIRFAX CENTER AREA STUDY KICKOFF OPEN HOUSE

10.7.2013

Question 1: What are the strengths and weaknesses you presently see in the Fairfax Center Area?

USES

- Good mix and proximity of uses, both retail and residential
- The area is well-contained; you can get everything you need here
- Variety of retail
- Good variety of food options, both inexpensive and health food
- Many convenient health facilities, such as dental and surgery (more than there used to be 15-20 years ago) - important to aging in place
- Good variety of housing types and price points

LOCATION

- Close to the Government Center
- Well-located for split commutes (access to both Loudoun County and DC)
- Close to healthcare facilities

CHARACTER

- Area does not have a city-feel; has low-density areas that are like a small town with trees
- Like the pastoral nature of the areas south of Route 29
- Like that there are parts of the area without streetlights and sidewalks

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Clean
- Perception of safety
- Good emergency response capacity

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Infrastructure needs to keep pace with growth (roads) and utilization
- Good place for commuters since there is good access to major roads

PARKS AND RECREATION

- Open space available
- Parks are not abundant but they are present
- Like having access to streams and creeks nearby, a best-kept secret of the area

MISCELLANEOUS

- Great supplier of tax base for the county
- Good Occoquan Watershed protection policy

Question 2: What are the opportunities or challenges you see for the Fairfax Center Area in the next 20 years?

USES

- Desire a larger commercial office presence
- Encourage boutique retail in area

TRANSPORTATION

- Traffic
- Need to have a way to get around without cars - right now it is hard to bike to BJs or Giant
- Better bike and pedestrian connectivity is needed so people are not just reliant on the public transit schedule
- County does not seem to put in sidewalks and bike paths without getting money from proffers - citizens are not paying enough taxes for these improvements
- Expand public transit to areas along Route 29
- Enhance multi-modal transit options and access, to include walking and bicycling
- Expansion of Metro to Centreville - how will this be funded?
- Add BRT on I-66 between Vienna to Stringfellow/Centreville
- Implement Comprehensive Plan recommendation for walkway over I-66 from Fair Oaks Mall to Fair Lakes

SCHOOLS/LIBRARIES

- Add a library within the Fairfax Center Area
- Overcrowding in schools at all levels - opportunity to add schools to this area

PARKS AND RECREATION

- Add a RECenter within the Fairfax Center Area
- Need more parks and better identification of those that are here already
- Better wayfinding to parks
- Need more active recreation opportunities including those for senior citizens and a diverse population
- Need a complete trail map, integrating parks and transportation data

ENVIRONMENT

- Noise control - plane noise from Dulles Airport and helicopter noise from the Helipad
- Impact of stormwater runoff concentration on Resource Protection Areas
- Don't pave paradise especially when runoff is a problem
- Do not want to see large stormwater ponds in lieu of onsite detention/retention

MISCELLANEOUS

- Reduce polling place lines
- Get younger people involved in planning to "make the room less gray"